MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

Organization of the City Government for 1864.

auguration of Mr. Gunther

His Inaugural Message to the Common Council.

Meeting of the Beards of Aldermon, Chancilmen and Supervisors.

better of the Mayor on the Death of Archbishep Hughes.

ther as Mayor of the City of New

anther was duly inaugurated hayor of the city of New ork. So large a gathering on a similar occasion in and the City Rall was never seen before. Among the

ming documents and closing up the business dal position. About twenty minutes before

WHIL moved that John T. Henry be elect t of the Board for the ensuing year by acula

On motion of Aldermas Fox, William Walsh, of the light ward, was appointed Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms. The Deputy Clerk and assistants are appointed by Mr. alentine, and as they are all efficient, and have been ears in effice, it is not likely that any changes will be

A committee from the Councilmen entered the chamber and amounced that their Board had organized and were ready to receive any communication from the Aldermen.

A committee of this Board was appointed to wait upon the Mayor and inform him of their organization. On their return Alderman Fox (the Chairman) informed the Board that they had performed their duty, and were courteously received by the Mayor, who said that his massage would be ready in half an hour.

The Board then took a rocess. On reassembling the believing inaugural message of Mayor Gunther was received, read and ordered to be printed, and five thousand in addition in pamphlet form:—

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE. MAYOR'S OFFICE, NEW YORK, Jan. 4, 1864.

To THE HONDRABLE THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORE:—
GRAVILMENT—In entering on the discharge of my duties as Mayor I am obliged, in accordance with an established rule, to communicate to you and through you to the public my views respecting the municipal affairs of the city. In doing so I must explain the embarrassments which surround me in the performance of these duties, and at the same time exhibit in as few words as possible an outline of the functions and objects of the various departments. Held responsible in an eminent degree for the good government and economical administration of the city, I find no adequate means under my control to che k the grounds tirregularities or secure an adequate protection to health, comfort and property.

I have procured information from the records of the city offices, from which I have gleaned what may afford a brief summary of the operations of the municipal authorities during the past year, the improvements lately completed or in prosecution, and the expenses involved in carrying on the vast intricate machinery of city governments. I deem it also obligatory under the charter "to recommend such measures" as may in my judgment best conduce to the great objects of universal benefit in a great city.

It is, however, a matter of deep regret that the aystem of local government is lacking in that simplicity which is so necessary to economy and efficiency. The sub-division

best conduce to the great objects of universal benefit in a great city.

It is, however, a matter of deep regret that the system of local government is lacking in that simplicity which is so necessary to economy and efficiency. The sub-division of functions and the severance of the tie of responsibility among the parts have naturally led to extravagance and the multiplication of offices. Bodies, independent of contro, in their power to draw and expend money from the city treasury, will seldom heatistic to exercise the same without regard to the maxims of frugality, and will usually provide for their personal and political friends to the utmost extent of public forbearance.

The expenditures of the city exceed, in proportion to the population, those of any other municipality in the world, and they are, and have been for years, the source of continual and well grounded complaint. The ratio of increase is certainly greater beyond what might have been reasonably expected from the growth of the city in wealth and population. The following table will show the relative advance for a number of years past:—

Population.

Value Real and Per-

ropus ion	Water Best and D	
according to	Value Real and P	
centura.	sonal Estate.	Tan levied.
. 1840 212,862	\$252,233,515 286,061,816	\$1,354,835 79
1880 515,804	280,001,810	8,280,086 02
1860 814,254	577,630,956	9,758,607 86
18631,000,000	591,196.813	11,565,672 18
	city debt, payable i	
cember, 1863:-	the following items	on the stat of the-
Water stock of 1886	s, outstanding	*****
Water stock of 186	o, outstanding	\$4,871
Croton water stock	, payable 1800	1,000,000
Croton water stock	payable 1880	2,147,000
Croton water stock	payable 1870	8,000,000
Croton water stock	of 1849, payable 187	5 255,600
Oroton water stock	, payable 1879	228,000
Croton water stock	of 1854, payable 187	8 25,000
Oroton water stock	of 1864, payable 187, payable 1888	b 1,878,000
Grotop water stock	, payable 1888	1,800,000
Fire indemnity, pa	yable 1868:	****** 602,768
Beilding loan No. 3	, payable 1870	····· 75.000
Building loan No. 6	, payable 1878	115,000
Central Park fund	stock, payable 1887	
Central Park fund a	sock, payable 1898	
Central Park fund s	tock, payable 1898	899,300
Central Park Impro	vement, payable 1887 vement, payable 1876	2,083,200
Central l'ark supro	vement, payable 1876	1,966,000
CHOITS! PARK IMPRO	veccent, additional,	
ble 1874	******************	1,000,000
Mest carate conce, 1	payable 1863	600,000
PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PA		-

The Mayor cannot be hear responsione in the singulest degree for the extent of these, although it is to him generally that the people look. All that he can do is merely to enumerate the gross sums expended and reiterate the hope so often expressed for a diminution.

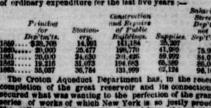
The Burean of Lamps and Gas, having charge of lighting the streets and public places, demands an annual outlay for its support of about a half a million of dollars.

The regulating, grading, setting curb and gutters and flagging the sidewalks, belong to another bureau in this department. These are mostly local improvements, and the charge fails on the property benefited, while the assessments therefor are collected through another bureau, under the control of the Collector of Assessments.

It will be seen that with reference to the streets, the boundary between the jurisdictions of the two municipal departments having charge of the same, is the line between the pavements and gutter stones. The Croton Aqueduct Department being entrusted with the supervision of the arteries for distributing the supply of water as well as the sewerage of the city, the charter of 1857 vested in it the charge of the pavements which covers them. It is obvious that if the municipal organization were in process of formation economy would dictate a consolidation. In case of obstructions frequently blame is laid upon one department when another is answerable for the fault, and the jurisdiction funder the commones may being to the Street Commissioners. The condition and character of these structures are not in keeping, to say the least, with the commercial rank and desting of the city. The present plan compels the continual outlay of large sums for dredging out the slips that are rapidly filled by the material washed in from the street and sewers, while the decaying nature of the timber frames gause a necessity for constant repairs. Most of the offset commercial rank and desting of the city. The present plan compels the continual outlay of large sums for dredging out the slips

possess stone piers or extensive basins constructed in the most solid manner that engineering skill can devise, while New York, second to none in importance, retains the old timber frames filled in with rubbish and loose stones, a constant source of expense, deteriorating the harbor and afferding lurking places for countless rats that infest the shipping and injure the carços. I would recommend the adoption of a policy gradually to replace the present by stone plers. Solid stone wails laid in hydraulic coment might be built eccasing the timber frames, increasing somewhat the breadth of the piers, and allowing a platform to be built outside and above the level of the readway for carts. Thus in the course of a few years neomplets recovation might be effected, greatly to the advantage of the city in appearance, and in the more positive benefits of sanitary improvement, the accommodation of commerce and the saving of repairs. The honor of the city demands that this reconstruction of the piers should not be deferred, and I am convinced that the expense will be as cheerfully borne as that for any other of the promisent improvements herectore insurred. Whatever concerns the interests of commerce, is essential to the prospecity and growth of New York. The receipts at present from the whereas barely covers the cost of repairs and dredging; whereas the income under an improved system would unquestionably defray the interest of the fund which might be created to erect those of so substantial a character as to dispense in a great measure with such repairs.

The purchase and care of the apparatus required for the Fire Department are entrusted to the Chief Engineer, as head of a bureau under the Street Commissioner, and the appropriations for these purposes are about one hundred and forty thousand dollars per annum—an amount that, considering the vital importance of them in the protection of property, can at present hardly be regarded as excessive. The introduction within a few years of steam fire engines, though it has adde



An immense wholesale business is carried on as washington market, estimated at over twenty millions of dollars annually. The large concourse of wagons and vehicles during market hours, and the removal of the population northward, call for the establishment of wholesale markets at other points, where there would be less obstructions and easier access for the mass of consumers.

communication to the Common Council.
of the Mayor being included in the Comm

Proper Case of the most prominent features connected with the Ornament and improvement of the city is the Central Park, which is laid out, managed and governed by an independent Beard of Commissioners. The lower section of the Park is now so far completed as to conduce greatly to the pieasure and enjoyment of the citizens, and ample means of recreation are alforded to the youth of the metropolis at all seasons, in the divers ponds and other sources of improvement is that between 106th and 110th streets. Eight miles of carriage roads, five miles of bridle paths and twenty miles of not walk are now open to the public. The taxable valuations of the three wards adjacent have increased from 1856 to 1862 \$27,000,000, due in a considerable extent to the opening of the Park. The cost of this improvement, including land, up to 1st of January, 1863, was \$7,373,426.

The proper regulation of the city railroads is a matter of public interest in a city like New York, where a large portion of the population is compelled to use this means of conveyance to and from their places of daily avecation. These companies, edoying a valuable franchies and paying little for the use of the streets in comparison to the revenue derived therefrom, while they increase so materially the expense of cleaning and repairing, should be compelled, at least, to given their tracks as far as the values sucy occupy are graded, and also to find agre a cotten as the local population reasonably demand; not should they be permitted to use a rail endangering sither life or property.

The enormous amount paid in salaries to the persons employed in the city departments has been a constant thum of remover the part of the citizens, and has been a line of the city department of the city of t

Heard of Councilmen.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD FOR THE YEAR 1864—
MR. JAMES HAYES, OF THE FOUNTERNIH WARD,
ELECTED PRESIDENT—NAMES OF THE MEMBERS—
THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE RECRIVED, ETC.

At twolve o'clock yesterday John A. Towle, the Second
Clark Called to order the members of the Percent of Council.

Mr. Haves, on taking his sent, said — Gentlemen of the Board of Councilmen—I tender you my sincere thanks for the honor you have conferred on me this day in having elected me as your presiding officer for the ensuing year. I shall endeavor to discharge the duties of the office fairly the shall endeavor to discharge the duties of the officer of the o

committee to wait on the Mayor and inform bim that the Board had organized, and would receive any communication he had to transmit.

Misesses. Frandon, Keenan and Webater were appointed a committee to wait on the Board of Aldermen for a similar purpose.

Mr. Heart moved that the rules of the Board of Counclimen for the year 1563 be the rules of the present Board until otherwise ordered. Adopted.

Mr. Russell moved that when the Board adjourn it do so to meet on Monday pext at one o'clock. Adopted.

The two committees returned and reported that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen would communicate with them in a short time.

A committee from the other branch of the Common Council, consisting of Aldermen Jones, Shannon and Otti-well, at this time entered and informed President Hayes that they had been commissioned to report to him the organization of their Board, and their ability to proceed at once to business.

President Hayes thanked them for their courtesy, and through them the Board of Aldermen, when the commit tee bowed themselves out.

On notion of Mr. Houghtain, a recess was then taken for half an hour.

AFTER RECESS.

At the expiration of the half hour the Board scans came.

for baif an hour.

At the expiration of the half hour the Board again came to order, and the reading of the Mayor's message was commenced.

Mr. Haukriy moved that the further reading be dispensed with, and that it be referred to the Committee on Printing and Advertising, and also be printed in the minutes. Adopted.

The reports from the heads of the departments not having been received, and there being no other business to transact, the Board, en motion of Mr. Reffer, adjourned.

BORT OF Supervisors.

ORGANIZATION OF THE NEW BOARD—ELECTION OF WM. M. TWEED AS PRESIDENT, ETC.

The Board of Supervisors met yesterday at moon for organization, Supervisor Little in the chair.

On motion the Board proceeded to ballot for permanent

President for the present year, and William M. Tweed redelved the unanimous vote of all the other members.

After being conducted to the chair he spoke as foliows:—

GENTLENEN—I accept the position of presiding officer of this Board with thankfuinese to you for the honor congred upon me. But in accepting I feel that you have put upon me an onerons, important and delicate duty, which I will endeavor to discharge as faithfuily and impartially as possible. It rust that whenever I fail short I will receive your kind forbearance and indulgence, and that the proceedings will be as they have ever been, harmonious and united. The grave responsibilities now resting on us make it more important than ever that we should work harmoniously together. The great question of avoiding the draft in this county is one which will awaken the attention of this Board, as well as of all the friends of law, order and good government. It is important both to the city and county government of New York. I have no doubt that if we are allowed to go on as we have intherto been proceeding we will be able to procure our quota of recruits for the county. I have no doubt that our capitalists will asbecribe money enough liberally to enable us to continue paying bounties, and that we will have funds enough to pay all who volunieer. The payment of the cittzens for their lesses is another important subject. Many who suffered by the riots lost all that they had been their lifetime accumulating, till they had surreunded themselves with all the comforts of life. The liberal manner in which the Board is dealing with these people is also meeting the approval and concurrence of capitalists, and there is no doubt that we will be able to see that all are paid.

The speaker then went on to urge the necessity of economy, and to state that the main part of the expense of isst year was incurred in raising troops for the government, to belp in the suppression of the rebellion.

On motion, the clerks of the Board were re-elected, and also the Sergent at Arms.

A committee was next appointed to inform the Mayor of the organization of the Board, and to inform him that th

Honors to Ex-Mayor Opdyke.

RECEPTION AT THE ASTOR HOUSE.—SPECH OF THE
RX-MAYOR, ETC., ETC.

Ex-Mayor Opdyke was yesterday afterno n received
by his friends at the Astor House, on the occasion of his
retirement from office. A splendid dinner was propared
and Grafulla's band discoursed fine music. Some three
hundred persons sat down to dinner. Among those present were Rufus F. Andrews, Faq., Richard Bustoed,
Enq., Rev Dr. Chapin, Prigndier General Lobart Ward,

vided being properly disposed of, Mr. Charles S. Spencer, on behalf of the friends of on Mayor Opdyke, made a

official acts, you have spoken with too much kindness and partiality. Sir, you have made some allusions to the future that it would be improper for me to pass over in silence. While I most cordially thank you, and those for whom you speak, for your kind anticipations in my behalf, I desire to say for myself, that I have no such expectations or aspirations. Having succeeded in maintaining the good opinion of my friends through a term of two years, in a high and responsible office, my political ambition is quite satisfied. Be assured, however, that I shall not lose my interest in the welfare of the city that has honored me with its chief magistracy, nor in our State and national governments. I believe our political institutions dispense choicer blessings than have resulted from any other form of government known among men, and so long as I live they shall have my best efforts for their maintenance. In conclusion, permit me to renew to you and to all who have honored me by their presence here to day, my cordial thanks for the warm-nearted welcome given me on my retirement from office.

Specines were then made by Recorder Hoffman, Street Commissioner Cornell, Richard Busteed, Esq., Col. Farnham, David Dudley Field, Admiral Farragut, Dr. G. F.

ham, David Dudley Field, Admiral Farragut, Dr. G. F. Woodruff and others. The entertainments of the occasion

The New City Government of Brooklyn.
ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.
The Board of Aldermen was organized last evening by
the election of a President for the ensuing year, and a number of minor officers, whose terms had expired. The carried everything, and thus secured the centrol of the city government (the Mayor excepted) for the next twelve months. As usual on such occasions, the Council Chamber was

city government (the Mayor excepted) for the next tweive months.

As usual on such occasions, the Council Chamber was crowded with spectators, while a number of officials occupied the space within the railings, all interested in the offices about to be distributedfamong the faithful fow.

Considerable alteration had been made in the interior of the chamber with the view of accommodating the additional member from the Twentieth ward, Instead of one row of seats two have been provided, bringing the members more in front of the presiding officer, in which respect it is an improvement.

Alderman Waltack, of the Third ward, occapied the chair, and called the Board to order, when a committee was appointed to conduct the new Mayor, Hon. Alfred M. Wood, to the platform of the presiding officer, and Alderman Waltack.

The first business in order was the election of a President, which resulted in the choice of Alderman Tunis V. Talmage, of the Fighth ward, by eleven votes against eight cast for Alderman George H. Fisher, of the Ninetenth ward.

The President returned thanks to the Board in a neat address, when the Mayor read his inaugural message, in which he makes a number of suggestions and recommendations, with the view of improving the condition of the city, especially in regard to the streets, lamps, wells and pumps, &c. He refers to the city Water Works, and shows the necessity of constructing an additional main from the reservoir into the city; also suggesting that the number of Water Commissioners be reduced to two. He speaks in commendable terms of the improvement in streets and avenues now in process of widening, and ornamentation, recommenda the substitution of the Beigian pavement for the cobble stone, and thinks the city lamps should be lighted all night the year round, insteas of only when the moon is not shnings as a present. He recommended the construction of manple public market, speaks of the local military organizations is commendable terms, and praises their useful of the province and the number of ap

Keeper of City Hall-J. A. Flanagan; Assistant, Thomas

McGaire

Messanger of the Board—John McCann.

Keeper of City Fark—J. Campbell.

Keeper of Washington Park—George Dougherty.

Engineer of City Hall—T. Ward.

Keeper of Hamilton Avenue Bridge—J. Anglera.

Keeper of Munth Street Bridge—J. Seamao.

Poundmasters—Eleventh ward. P. Trimble; Eighth ward. J. Condon; Eastern District, J. Bowring.

Dockmasters—Eastern District, Owen Donnelly; South Seventh street, J. Weaver.

This concluded the business for the evening, and the Board adjourned for one week.

THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

The Rebels Reported to be Advancing Up the Valley-General Kelley Prepared for Them-No Attack as Yet on the Baltimere and Ohio Railroad, &c.

Wasmington, Jan. 4, 1864.

A despatch received here from a reliable source states

the command of General Kelley, are in good force and

No property on the road is unduly exposed, and pas-senger and freight trains are running regularly, subject o no military interruptions whatever.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4, 1864. The rumors of the enemy's designs and operations in the Shenandoah valley are exaggerated. Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry, perhaps one thousand strong, supported by Mount Jackson, and make an occasional dash as far north as Winchester. The latest indications point to the Moorescene of operations. Certainly they have not appeared as yet in sight of the Baitimore and Onlo Railroad, the with large quantities of freight and many passengers

MEADE'S ARMY.

Cavalry Reconnoissance to Front Reyal-No Enemy Discovered-Expedition to Rectortown-Col. Smith's Exploit, &c. MR. WILLIAM YOUNG'S DESPATCH.

Gregg's cavalry division, under the command of Col. Taylor, of the First Ponnsylvania regiment, fleft on the encountered severe deprivations in consequence of the intensely cold weather; but no enemy was discovered. Owing to the depth of the Shonandoah river no attempt

A few days previous to the departure of the div

morrow cracker boxes and pine boughs will become improvised sleighs, and the fagt mags will speed it over the famous race course of the continuanders of our two opposing armies. The weather is ledgrate.

The convalescent, constitute, and volunteers daily noming to the triny equal the furloughed men.

Fight Near Fort Gibson-Quantrell's Rebels Routed.

Advices from the South say a fight occurred on Decemtween one thousand revels, under Quantrell, and Colonel Phillips, of the Indian brigade. The fight lasted several who scattered in all directions, leaving fifty killed and wounded on the field. Our loss was small.

Examination of the Chesapeake Pirates. charged with being concerned in the Chesapeake affair, was commenced before the Police Magistrate this morn-

case did not come within the provisions of the Extradi-tion treaty, as the offence was committed on the high

Captain willets evidence was to the number of shots fired a him. He now says there were two or three. In other respects his evidence is substantially the same as his published statement. The examination was adjourned until Wednesday. The courtroom was crowded with spec-

The arrangements for the funeral of the late Arch-bishop Hughes have not yet been completed, but it is character.

The remains will be placed in the Cathedral, in the mid-

they will remain in state until Thursday morning. Meanwhile the community will have an opportunity of viewing the corpse of the late illustrious prelate. On Thursday morning, at ten o'clock, the funeral will

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Will you oblige the friends and admirers of the late Archbishop Hughes by permitting one of them to make a suggestion to the Catholic people of this city through your columns? The suggestion is this:—That as it has pleased Almighty God to take from amongst us our venerable and revered Archbishop, we, the Catholics of New York, of all origins, shall show our sympathy with the general loss, and our fillal respect for the memory of the great prelate who has passed from amongst us, by closing our several places of business during the time appointed for the funeral, which will take place on Thursday next. It will be a very small acknowledgment of will be merged in this demonstration of filial serrow on the part of the Catholics of New York.

A CATHOLIC.

Trilings from Rome are expected announcing the appointment of Right Reverend Bishop Wood, of the discuss of Philadelphia, to the Archbishopric of Baltimore, racent by the death of the lamented Kengler. This See is the highest in the country. Its artubishop is the